

# Eastlake trash contract OK'd

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An incensed Eastlake Councilman Dan Matheke took his city to task a few weeks ago when council approved higher trash collection fees.

Because contractor bids for the service came in lower than expected, Matheke appeared relieved that council passed an ordinance Tuesday accepting a bid that will cost residents about \$5 less per quarter than originally thought. Matheke believes some of the residents he represented that night will be relieved, too.

"That's the big thing, (bids) came in a lot lower," Matheke said.

Council allowed the city to accept a bid from a Republic Services Inc. subsidiary to provide waste collection at a \$40.47-per-quarter cost for residents. The contract will last for five years, followed by five one-year options at the city's discretion, Mayor Ted Andrzejewski said. The cost will rise by about 2 percent after each year. The contract will be effective April 1.

Residents currently pay

## Documents online

Read the Eastlake City Council resolution on repeal of Local Government Fund distribution formula.

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\$36 every three months, but the administration expected they would have to pay \$45 a quarter. Officials like the Republic contract, which will be handled by the firm's Browning Ferris Industries of Ohio Inc., because it gives residents garbage pickup and biweekly, curbside recycling. Residents would receive 64-gallon bins for recycling and would not have to worry about separating glass, magazines and other salvageable items.

"We're getting more services for less money, plus the recycling bins are going to be at people's houses, giving them a better opportunity to put things in the recycling bins instead of having to drop them off," Matheke said.

Browning Ferris will pick up large items and yard waste. Its parent company will handle billing, which it is not doing under the city's current contract. With fewer workers in the city, that is a plus, offi-

cials say.

"It's a good thing," Council President Dennis Morely said. "People may still be upset, but they're not going to write the check to the city any more. We're done, we're out of garbage."

"We're saving ourselves about a quarter of \$1 million out of the general fund."

The city also passed an ordinance expressing its disdain for the Lake County commissioners' request that the county's budget commission repeal the Local Government Fund distribution formula it has used for decades.

State law stipulates a county keeps 30 percent of the Local Government Fund from the state, with the rest to be divided among the various entities. However, counties are allowed to establish an alternative distribution formula, and Lake has done so since 1982.

Under it, the county receives 11 percent of the fund. That percentage totaled more than \$1.8 million of the \$16.9 million pot in 2011. Some counties in Ohio have kept up to 60 percent of the fund.

The cities of Mentor and Willoughby got the biggest shares last year. Eastlake

received the fourth-highest amount at about \$1.78 million. According to the city's own analysis, it would get a little more than \$988,000 if the county keeps 30 percent of the already shrinking fund.

The ordinance allows the city to send county officials a letter expressing its opposition and providing analysis. For a change to occur, state law requires the governing bodies of the largest city in a county and a majority of the communities to also pass resolutions to approve the change. Mentor City Manager Ken Filipiak has told the *The News-Herald* he was not in favor of the change.

Morely said he didn't think Mentor would approve the move. Still he said such a change would display the reason communities like his return to voters so often.

"They're forcing us to put on levies because everyone keeps taking money from us," he said. "We don't like going to the people for everything. We're balanced as of, on paper, today, but who knows?"

W-E Schools Superintendent Steve Thompson gives city update.

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